

CLAIMS

1. A method of telemicroscopy comprising the steps of:
 preparing a specimen on a microscopy slide; placing the
 slide upon the stage of a microscope equipped with digital
 imaging apparatus and motorised stage; imaging the specimen
 to obtain a composite high resolution image of the whole
 specimen; digitally obtaining a relatively low resolution
 copy of that image; and storing the images in a datastore;
 wherein the method further comprises the steps of allowing
 access to the datastore from a terminal; transferring the
 low resolution image to the terminal and displaying the
 image upon a monitor; selecting by means of the remote
 terminal, as desired, an area of the low resolution image
 and transferring corresponding high resolution image data
 for that area from the datastore to the terminal.

The
 2. ~~A~~ method according to claim 1, wherein the terminal is
 a remote terminal.

The
 3. ~~A~~ method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, further
 comprising the step of recording the areas of the low
 resolution image that are selected, for review of
 performance of a person performing the method.

The
 4. ~~A~~ method according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein a
 continuous sequence of successive images of the specimen is
 obtained by advancing the field of view of the objective
 lens of the microscope stepwise across the specimen and
 acquiring an image of each field of view.

5. A telemicroscopy apparatus comprising a microscope
 provided with a digital imaging apparatus and a motorised
 stage which can be controlled to obtain a digital image or
 plurality of such images, at a desired high resolution, of
 an entire specimen placed upon the stage; image processing
 means to obtain a low resolution copy of the image of the

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specimen; storage means to store the images obtained; and means for transferring, in use, image data to a terminal in response to requests therefrom.

5A 6. ^{*The*} An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the digital imaging apparatus is a digital camera.

AA 7. ^{*The*} An apparatus according to claim 5 ~~or claim 6~~, comprising means for moving the objective lens of the
10 microscope in order to provide automatic focussing.

AA 8. ^{*The*} An apparatus according to claim 5, ~~6 or 7~~ comprising means for recording what image data is requested for review of the performance of a user.

15 *A* 9. ^{*The*} An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the recording means is a data storage disk, such as a floppy disk.

*add
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